

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows.

--1(Currently amended). A method for executing a query against a database to retrieve desired data from a database table, wherein the database includes a plurality of partitions for storing different portions of said database table based on a partitioning schema, each partition associated with a partition identifier and database catalog information indicating data organization in said database, the method comprising:

(a) retrieving information within said database catalog information associated with said database table containing said desired data and relating to the partitioning schema;

(b) analyzing the contents of the query and the retrieved database catalog information to determine ~~the~~ a specific partition from among said plurality of partitions containing the database table portion with the desired data satisfying said query and identifying a partition identifier associated with the specific partition; and

(c) executing the query against said specific partition, whereby said desired data is retrieved.

2(Previously presented). The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) further includes:

(a.1) storing the retrieved database catalog information in a database catalog cache.

3(Previously presented). The method of claim 2, wherein step (a.1) further includes:

(a.1.1) building a subset of the database catalog; and

(a.1.2) storing the subset of the database catalog in the catalog cache.

4(Original). The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further includes:

(b.1) resolving the partition identifier.

5(Previously presented). The method of claim 4, wherein step (c) further includes:

(c.1) executing the query and retrieving the desired data from the specific partition.

6(Previously presented). The method of claim 5, wherein step (c) further includes:

(c.2) forwarding the retrieved data to a client application requesting table data.

7(Currently amended). A database management system for executing a query against a database to retrieve desired data from a database table, wherein the database includes a plurality of partitions for storing different portions of said database table based on a partitioning schema, each partition associated with a partition identifier and database catalog information indicating data organization in said database, the system comprising:

a schema-lookup module to retrieve information within said database catalog information associated with said database table containing said desired data and relating to the partitioning schema;

a partition-router module to analyze the contents of the query and the retrieved database catalog information to determine ~~the~~ a specific partition from among said plurality of partitions containing the database table portion with the desired data satisfying said query and to identify a partition identifier associated with the specific partition; and

a data-manager module to execute the query against said specific partition, whereby said desired data is retrieved.

8(Previously presented). The system of claim 7, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a catalog-cache module to store the retrieved database catalog information in a database catalog cache.

9(Original). The system of claim 8, wherein the catalog-cache module includes:

a build-cache module to build a subset of the database catalog; and

a store-cache module to store the subset of the database catalog in the catalog cache.

10(Original). The system of claim 7, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a connection module to resolve the partition identifier.

11(Previously presented). The system of claim 10, wherein the data-manager module includes:

an execution module to execute the query and retrieve the desired data from the specific partition.

12(Previously presented). The system of claim 11, wherein the data-manager module includes:

a client-coordinator module to forward the retrieved data to a client application requesting table data.

13(Currently amended). A program product apparatus having a computer readable medium with computer program logic recorded thereon for executing a query against a database to retrieve desired data from a database table, wherein the database includes a plurality of partitions for storing different portions of said database table based on a partitioning schema, each partition associated with a partition identifier and database catalog information indicating data organization in said database, said program product apparatus comprising:

a schema-lookup module to retrieve information within said database catalog information associated with said database table containing said desired data and relating to the partitioning schema;

a partition-router module to analyze the contents of the query and the retrieved database catalog information to determine ~~the~~ a specific partition from among said plurality of partitions containing the database table portion with the desired data satisfying said query and to identify a partition identifier associated with the specific partition; and

**Amendment**  
**U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/759,154**

a data-manager module to execute the query against said specific partition, whereby said desired data is retrieved.

14(Previously presented). The program product of claim 13, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a catalog-cache module to store the retrieved database catalog information in a database catalog cache.

15(Original). The program product of claim 14, wherein the catalog-cache module includes:

a build-cache module to build a subset of the database catalog; and

a store-cache module to store the subset of the database catalog in the catalog cache.

16(Original). The program product of claim 13, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a connection module to resolve the partition identifier.

17(Previously presented). The program product of claim 16, wherein the data-manager module includes:

an execution module to execute the query and retrieve the desired data from the specific partition.

**Amendment**  
**U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/759,154**

18(Previously presented). The program product of claim 17, wherein the data-manager module includes:

a client-coordinator module to forward the retrieved data to a client application requesting table data.--